Philadelphia COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter
Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest Numbers
- 1,388,321 people ages 18 and up (95%) got at least one dose of vaccine and 1,070,082 people ages 18 and up (79.4%) are fully vaccinated in Philadelphia, as of January 25th, 2022.
  - 93% of people ages 12 and up and over one third (35.2%) of Philadelphia's children ages 5–11 years old have received at least one dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- Find the newest information on the PDPH COVID-19 webpage at philagov/COVID or on the Department's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Latest COVID Vaccine News
- The Omicron variant seems to have slowed in Philadelphia and the number of people getting COVID-19 is just starting to go down. However, the danger has not passed, and the Omicron variant still makes it very easy to pass COVID-19 from person to person. Here is how to stay safe:
  - Get vaccinated/boosted: https://www.phila.gov/vaccine
  - Being fully vaccinated and boosted is the best way to keep from getting severe COVID, and can help lower your chance of catching COVID.
  - Wear a mask when around others, two if you're in a crowded space.
  - Stay home if you’re sick.
  - Get tested if you've been exposed or are feeling symptoms: www.phila.gov/testing.
- PDPH has updated its guidance for schools: https://bit.ly/Jan19COVIDforSchools
  - Find information on masking, isolation and quarantine, testing and more.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- Where to find a COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Call 3-1-1 or visit philagov/vaccine or vaccines.gov to find a vaccine clinic near you.
  - For interpretation, call 3-1-1, press #5 and say your language.
  - Vaccine is free, no insurance or ID required!
- Where to find a COVID-19 test:
  - Visit www.COVIDtests.gov to order your free at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits.
  - Call 3-1-1 or visit philagov/testing to find a site near you (available in 6 languages).
  - Testing is FREE at most sites in Philadelphia.
  - Testing event schedule is available here: https://bit.ly/COVIDtestingevents
- Lost Vaccination Card?
  - Ask your healthcare provider first, if they cannot help, call 215-685-5488 or email covid@phila.gov to request a copy of your vaccine record.
  - The CDC does not provide copies of COVID-19 vaccination card.
- Have an upcoming public health event happening in your community?
  - Send us an email at COVIDVax@phila.gov with a file of your event flyer at least two weeks in advance and we will advertise your event on our social media!

FAQ: Updated Mask Guidelines
- Why did the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) change their recommendations about masks again?
  - There used to be a shortage of N95 and KN95 masks that needed to be reserved for essential workers and people with high risk of getting severely sick with COVID-19.
There are two reasons the guidance changed:
- 1) There is no longer a shortage of these masks.
- 2) The Omicron variant that is responsible for 98% of cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. is very easily passed from person to person so people need updated information on how to wear masks correctly.

What are the types of masks and respirators and how do they work?
- Masks and respirators can provide different levels of protection depending on the type of mask and how they are used.
  - Loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection.
  - Layered finely woven products offer more protection.
  - Well-fitting disposable surgical masks and KN95s offer even more protection.
  - Well-fitting NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s) offer the highest level of protection.

Which mask should I use?
- Wear the most protective mask you can that:
  - 1) Fits you well.
  - 2) You will wear consistently.
- Choose a mask with a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out the top of your mask.
  - Bend the wire over your nose to fit the mask close to your face.
- Do NOT wear a mask with valves or vents. These let air in and out, making the mask less effective.

Are two masks better than one?
- Yes, you can layer masks in two ways:
  - 1) Use a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric.
  - 2) Wear a disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.
    - The cloth mask should push the edges of the disposable mask against your face.
- Do NOT combine two disposable masks or combine a N95 or KN95 with any other type of mask.

How do I use a mask correctly and why does it matter?
- All types of masks or respirators should:
  - Fit closely over your nose, mouth and chin, with no gaps.
  - Be comfortable enough when worn properly (covering your nose and mouth) so that you can keep it on when you need to.
  - Gaps can let air leak in and out around the edges of the mask. If you have gaps, then you are not well-protected or protecting those around you.
    - Gaps can be caused by choosing the wrong size or type of mask and when a mask is worn with facial hair.
- How do I check that my mask fits and is protecting me and the people around me?
  - Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask.
  - Make sure no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.
  - If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.


More Information
- Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline: 800-722-7112, press #9 for interpretation. Open 24/7!
  - Talk to a medical professional about COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, vaccine, tests, etc.
- Transportation and access and functional needs resources: https://bit.ly/KnowB4Ugo
  - This includes an up-to-date description of access at City-run clinics.
  - Includes current topics, FAQs and more. Current as of November 19, 2021
  - For future disability health announcements, contact liam.dougherty@phila.gov


**How to Stay Connected**
- Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 and get updates on your phone and find the latest information at phil.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and twitter @PHLPublicHealth
- This newsletter is sent to the Community Response Partner Network Sign up at [https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse](https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse) to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.
- Questions or suggestions? Email us at COVIDVax@phila.gov or leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

**Be safe!**